TRADE AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL GRADUATES IN THE PEACE CORPS

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(Cover) In Malaya, the accent is on technical instruction. Here a Volunteer works with a Malayan student, teaching and demonstrating a vital industrial skill.

OPPORTUNITIES IN THE PEACE CORPS FOR TRADE AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL GRADUATES

Hundreds of Peace Corps Volunteers are today doing jobs that call for technical competence, experience and training in manual and technical skills. More are needed.

Graduates of U.S. technical and trade schools represent a significant percentage of the Peace Corps Volunteers now making major contributions to the economic development of their host countries. Their skills and training find a place in almost every country where the Peace Corps is serving.

What kind of jobs are they doing? They are operating road-building equipment, repairing and maintaining tractors, building schools, hospitals and health centers. As they do the jobs, they teach host country co-workers the self-help skills that will enable these nations to raise their standards of living.

A SKILL TO OFFER

That's what Hili Padilla needed in order to join the Peace Corps. From the time he had heard about the Peace Corps, Padilla wanted to Volunteer, but he had to make sure that he had the technical ability for an overseas assignment. Padilla, 25, from Los Angeles, California, enrolled in a school of heavy equipment operation. Here he learned the care and preventive maintenance of all types of tractors. It was valuable training for a future Peace Corps Volunteer.

Telephone poles will soon be rising all over new nations in Africa as Volunteers, graduates of technical schools, teach the necessary skills.

Elden Stang, A Peace Corps Volunteer in Chile, helps his partner repair an electrical pump. More electricians and auto mechanics are needed.

A year later he was ready. He had had the desire — now he had the skills. Today he is in Ecuador helping to build badly-needed roads and irrigation canals.

A few months ago, Curtis Lloyd Larson was a student at a technical institute in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Here, the 6′3″ 195-pound ex-high school footballer was preparing for a career in auto mechanics.

Today, Curt Larson, a native of Kiester, Minnesota, is in Tunisia as a Peace Corps Volunteer working with a mobile maintenance unit in the field. Because of his skills and those of 24 other Peace Corps Volunteer mechanics, Tunisia's ambitious road-building program is moving ahead.

Much of Tunisia's equipment was broken down. Many items of critically needed equipment were unused for months because of the lack of trained mechanics. Now the equipment is running and Curt's Tunisian co-workers are learning how to take care of it. When the Volunteers leave at the end of their assignment, trained Tunisians will be able to carry on.

WHY VOLUNTEER?

Curt Larson and Hili Padilla volunteered for the Peace Corps because they saw an outlet for their skills, an opportunity to serve the needs of developing nations while gaining additional experience for themselves. Peace Corps service, they knew, would be career development. They would learn new skills, while expanding their own. They would learn a new language and culture. They could also gain the confidence and strength that comes from the challenge of working under unexpected and unusual conditions. Through the Peace Corps, they could help their host countries better understand the United States and its citizens — who we are, what we think and how we work. And, in return, they would better understand the host nation, its people and its history.

Hili Padilla and Curt Larson are not unusual people. Their story is not unusual. It is being repeated by trade and technical school graduates all over the world. A technical school-trained carpenter is teaching his craft in a Nigerian vocational school; a surveyor is charting previously unmapped territory in North Borneo; a radio-TV repairman is teaching his trade to Brazilians; an electrician is demonstrating theory and practice of electrical installation in Jamaica.

Roll that well casing! Volunteers in the Dominican Republic are part of well-digging teams to improve sanitation and the water supply in the country.

Bricklaying is an art and a craft in Pakistan. Two Volunteers, assigned to rural public works projects, are rebuilding a youth hostel.

WHO IS NEEDED

The Peace Corps has received requests for carpenters, plumbers, bricklayers, auto mechanics, heavy equipment operators, heavy equipment mechanics, diesel mechanics, surveyors, draftsmen, engineering technicians, printers, blueprint technicians, air conditioning repairmen, wiremen, architectural draftsmen, aviation technicians, TV repairmen, refrigeration technicians, plasterers, sheet metal workers, machinists, typewriter repairmen, business machine repairmen, electronics technicians.

Anyone who has a high school education or its equivalent, either in courses or practical experience in any of these areas and meets the other qualifications, is is eligible for Peace Corps service. A college diploma is not required. In many countries graduates of two-year schools of technology or trades will be qualified to teach in vocational schools. Graduates of apprenticeship programs are highly qualified for all vocational projects.

QUALIFICATIONS

WHO MAY APPLY: Any American citizen over 18 may apply for service with the Peace Corps. There is no upper age limit. Married persons with no dependent children are eligible if both can do needed jobs as Volunteers. Volunteers must be in excellent physical and mental health, emotionally mature, and upright in their personal conduct.

TRAINING: Once you have been selected, you will be invited to participate in a thorough, comprehensive training program. Competent experts in the technical and trade fields will instruct you. You will receive language training, area studies, refresher courses in your skill and background courses in American history, along with courses in the history and culture of your host country. This training has been especially tailored for technical and trade programs so that you can make the most of your own experiences in helping others. The training program is paid by the Peace Corps. Room, board and transportation are included.

PAY AND ALLOWANCES: During training and overseas service, all expenses — including travel, food, clothing, housing, medical care, and incidentals — will be paid by the Peace Corps. Upon completion of Peace Corps service, Volunteers will receive a readjustment allowance equal to $75 for each month of service.

TRAVEL AND LEAVE: Volunteers will receive 30 days leave with allowances each year and will get a small additional allowance for travel from their duty stations.

DISABILITY BENEFITS: Disability benefits, including medical care, will be provided for Volunteers and any illness or injury incurred in the line of duty will be covered.

Volunteer technical instructor teaches his class the important facts and theories in machine skills. This Volunteer works with high school students.

Vocational teacher Bill Robertson, in Jamaica, shows his students how to fix that leak. He is one of 100 Peace Corps vocational teachers on assignment.

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MILITARY OBLIGATIONS: M
through Peace Corps servic
from the Selective Service and Reserve obligations for the period of their Peace Corps service, at the discretion of local Selective Service boards.

WHEN TO APPLY? Now. The opportunities are limitless — the needs both immediate and long-range.

HOW DO I APPLY? By filling out a Peace Corps Volunteer Questionnaire which merely tells the Peace Corps what your experience is and that you would like to be considered for service. Peace Corps Questionnaires are also available at Post Offices, through the offices of your Senators and Congressmen and from any local Bureau of Employment Security Office.

WHERE YOU WILL SERVE: Guatemala, Honduras, Nepal, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Ecuador, Iran, Tunisia, Tanganyika, Afghanistan, Colombia, Chile, Jamaica, India, Bolivia, Malaya, Peru, Ghana, Brazil, Gabon, North Borneo/Sarawak.

Dear Mr. Pagano:

I am a _____ and would
(major skill)
appreciate receiving the following Peace Corps material.

- ☐ The 28-page Peace Corps Fact Book
- ☐ Peace Corps Volunteer Questionnaire (application)

Name _____

Address _____

Trade or Technical School attended _____

_____

Other skills _____

Major field of experience outside of school: (jobs, farm background, hobbies, sports, etc.) _____

_____

I would be available to enter training for a Peace Corps project on _____.
(Date)

CLIP AND MAIL THIS COUPON TO:

PEACE CORPS, Washington 25, D. C.

Attention: Jules Pagano, Director
Professional & Technical Division

PEACE CORPS

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.